

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT
Prusi Press Release

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SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE APPROVES PRUSI AMENDMENT TO DNR BUDGET

Amendment requires DNR to continue operation of Porcupine Mountain Ski Area until viable lessee/operator is found

LANSING – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) recently successfully amended the Fiscal Year 2003-04 DNR budget bill requiring that prior to any action to halt operations of the Porcupine Mountains Ski Area, the DNR must conduct a study on the economic impact of the ski area to Ontonagon County and the Western U.P. As adopted by the Senate Appropriations Committee, the DNR would be required to continue operation of the ski area until the report is due on September 30, 2004.

“The recent request-for-proposals regarding the Porcupine Mountains Ski Area released by the DNR includes a very restrictive timeframe for prospective ski operators and companies to submit proposals to operate the ski area,” Prusi said. “My amendment requires the continued operation of the ski area through the next season should the DNR require additional time to find a lessee.”

The DNR has openly expressed its intent to get out of the ski hill operating business. Prusi’s amendment would allow sufficient time for the department to find an operator while ensuring that the ski area will be open throughout the coming ski season, which is only three months away.

“The Porcupine Mountains Ski Area is a crown jewel in the Western U.P. It brings in tourists from throughout the Midwest,” Prusi said. “The ski area’s economic impact on the surrounding area cannot be underestimated, and I will continue to work with state and local officials to ensure its successful continued operation.”

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38th Senate District, which includes 13 of the 15 Upper Peninsula counties.

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Editor’s Note: Sen. Prusi’s most recent photo is available for download; please visit his web site at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/dem/Graphics/pressphotos/SD38PrusiPortrait.jpg>